

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DPW-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /147 W

----- 102732

R 150410Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8045

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 17924

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, VS

SUBJECT: COMMUNISTS INCREASE TROOP STRENGTH IN MR 3

FOLLOWING BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND OR ACTION

QUOTE

R 110740Z OCT 73

FM AMCONGEN BIEN HOA

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON 496

INFO USDAO SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0546

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJECT: COMMUNISTS INCREASE TROOP STRENGTH IN MR 3

1. IN ACCOMPANYING LTG MINH ON HIS ROUNDS, CONGEN NOTICED THAT MINH AND HIS BRIEFERS WERE SUDDENLY QUOTING SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER FIGURES ON ENEMY COMBAT STRENGTH IN MR 3 FROM 38,000 TO 47,000. IN ATTEMPT OBTAIN EXPLANATION, CONSUL CONSULTED G 2 WHO BROKE OUT FIGURES SHOWING 46,800 COMMUNIST COMBAT TROOPS NOW CARRIED. HE SAID REVISION NOT YET REPORTED TO JGS BECAUSE INFORMATION REQUIRES CONFIRMATION. HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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G 2 BELIEVES ESTIMATE RELIABLE AS BASED ON CAREFUL ANALYSIS

OF RECENT INTEL GLEANED FROM RALLIERS, POW'S AND CAPTURED DOCUMENTS. WHILE NOT GIVING COMPLETE BREAKDOWN, G2 CITED FOLLOWING EXAMPLES OF UNITS NEWLY ARRIVED FROM CAMBODIA: 367 SAPPER GROUP OF 7 BATTALIONS WITH 100 MEN EACH PLUS 300 SUPPORT TROOPS; NBA 207 REGIMENT COMPOSED OF 800 MEN; THE 2004, 2018 AND 2022 INFILTRATION GROUPS OF 550 MEN EACH.

2. TOTAL ENEMY STRENGTH IN MR 3 CURRENTLY CARRIED AT 82,000 COMPARED WITH 62,000 AT JANUARY CEASE-FIRE. WHAT APPEARS BE RECENT ACCELERATION OF INFILTRATION RATE BEARS WATCHING AS COULD REFLECT COMMUNIST INTENTIONS HEAT UP WAR IN MR 3. WALKINSHAW

END QUOTE
MARTIN

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NNN

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS MARTIN
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: MILI, VS, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005